

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

In the Matter of the Application of)
Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc.)
For Approval to Commit Funds in)
Excess of \$500,000 for Item H0000650,)
Kukio 69 kV Underground Conversion.)

DOCKET NO. 02-0115

DIV. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
DEPT. OF COMMERCE AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF HAWAII

2002 JUL 31 P 2:35

RECEIVED

ORDER NO. 19495

Filed July 31, 2002
At 8:00 o'clock A .M.

Karen Higashi.
Chief Clerk of the Commission

ATTEST: A True Copy
KAREN HIGASHI
Chief Clerk, Public Utilities
Commission, State of Hawaii.

K. Higashi.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc.)	Docket No. 02-0115
For Approval to Commit Funds in)	Order No. 19495
Excess of \$500,000 for Item H0000650,)	
Kukio 69 kV Underground Conversion.)	
_____)	

ORDER

I.

By application filed on May 6, 2002, and amended on May 14, 2002, and July 5, 2002,¹ HAWAII ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, INC. (HELCO) requests: (1) commission approval to commit approximately \$4,678,900 for Item H0000650, the Kukio 69 kilovolt (kV) Underground Conversion; (2) that the commission expeditiously set a public hearing pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 269-27.5, if the commission deems such hearing to be necessary; (3) a favorable commission determination, pursuant to HRS § 269-27.6, allowing the permanent underground relocation of the 69 kV transmission line; (4) if deemed necessary by the commission, a favorable determination, pursuant to HRS § 269-27.6, to construct the temporary 69 kV line above the surface of the ground; and (5) expedited commission approval for the construction of a temporary

¹The May 14, 2002 amendment noted minor revisions to the underground portion of the project. The July 5, 2002 amendment also noted minor changes to the temporary overhead and permanent underground portions of the project.

69 kV overhead line.² HELCO's application is made in accordance with section 2.3.g.2 of the commission's General Order No. 7, Standards for Electric Utility Service in the State of Hawaii (General Order No. 7).³

HELCO served copies of the application on the Division of Consumer Advocacy, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Consumer Advocate).

In accordance with HRS § 269-27.5, on June 12, 2002, a public hearing was held at the Kona International Airport, Administrative Training Room, Module 2.⁴

On June 13, 2002, the Consumer Advocate submitted written information requests (IRs) to HELCO to facilitate its review of the instant application. HELCO submitted its response to the IRs on July 17, 2002.

²By Interim Decision and Order No. 19433, filed on June 27, 2002, in this docket, the commission (1) granted HELCO's request for expedited approval to temporarily relocate the 69 kV transmission line above the surface of the ground and (2) authorized HELCO, on an interim basis, to commit funds needed to construct and complete the temporary overhead 69 kV transmission line.

³General Order No. 7 states, in relevant part, that "[p]roposed capital expenditures . . . in excess of \$500,000 . . . shall be submitted to the Commission for review at least 60 days prior to the commencement of construction or commitment for expenditure[.]"

⁴HELCO and the Consumer Advocate appeared at the public hearing and submitted their written testimonies. No other persons appeared. A brief written statement in support of HELCO's application was, however, received by the commission on June 6, 2002, from ACM Consultants, Inc.

II.

Section 2.3.g.2 of General Order No. 7 provides that if the commission does not act on a public utility's application and render a decision and order within 90 days of filing, the utility will be allowed "to include the project in its rate base without the determination by the [c]ommission required by this rule."

We note that the 90-day period within which the commission must take action on HELCO's request expires on August 4, 2002 (section 2.3.g.2 deadline).

By letter dated and filed on July 19, 2002, HELCO requests to extend the section 2.3.g.2 deadline from August 4, 2002, to September 18, 2002. HELCO seeks this extension to allow the Consumer Advocate additional time to complete its investigation and to issue a Statement of Position.

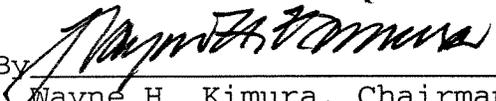
Upon review, the commission finds good cause to grant HELCO's request to extend the section 2.3.g.2 deadline, from August 4, 2002, to September 18, 2002.

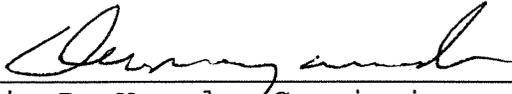
III.

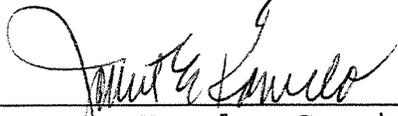
THE COMMISSION ORDERS that HELCO's request to extend the General Order No. 7, section 2.3.g.2 deadline from August 4, 2002, to September 18, 2002, is granted.

DONE at Honolulu, Hawaii this 31st day of July, 2002.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

By 
Wayne H. Kimura, Chairman

By 
Dennis R. Yamada, Commissioner

By 
Janet E. Kawelo, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Benedyne S. Stone
Commission Counsel

02-0115.sl

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

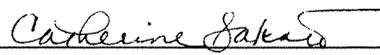
I hereby certify that I have this date served a copy of the foregoing Order No.19495 upon the following parties, by causing a copy hereof to be mailed, postage prepaid, and properly addressed to each such party.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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Catherine Sakato

DATED: July 31, 2002